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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION KUWAIT MAY 25-26: IRAQ

1. "No Worse..."

Mohammed Musaad Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Qabas (5/25): "Had the American policy in Iraq succeeded, the transfer through the United Nations Security Council would have been welcomed. This did not happen, and the American policy in Iraq has been a great disappointment so far. Although weapons of mass destruction were the main reason for going to war, to date they have not been found. A large number of Iraqi soldiers and civilians have been killed, in addition to American soldiers. Also, America formed the Governing Council on the basis of sectarian differences. The transfer of sovereignty at the end of June will not be complete as long as American troops and their coalition partners remain in Iraq, immune to Iraqi jurisdiction. In Iraq, America achieved neither democracy nor reform. It only enforced sectarianism and civil war. Imagine what could happen in Iraq if America withdrew completely? It certainly will not be worse than it already is."

2. "Is American Escape Imminent?"

Dr. Yaser Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'am (5/25): "Whether in Iraq, with the American electorate or with the rest of the world, the picture is grim for the United States. Recent polls reveal that the majority of Iraqis consider the Americans an occupying force, and want them to leave despite the deterioration of the security situation. In addition to the worsening situation, America's idiotic targeting of holy sites in Iraq amplified Shiite anger, which spread to other Arab states and elicited threats against Americans. On the home front, it seems that presidential candidate John Kerry may be fortunate enough to win the election, and the dismissal of neo-conservatives is becoming a big possibility. I wonder, what will be the position of those here in Kuwait, who put all their eggs in America's basket, and ignored the warning signs indicating that the American military can be defeated, just as it was defeated in Somalia and Lebanon."

3. "Iraq ... To Where?"

Ahmad Al-Dawas wrote in independent Al-Watan (5/25): "The Iraqi people now are more in need of security and stability than democracy, because the Iraqi Governing Council has failed to solve Iraq's pressing security situation. That is why the American administration is anxious to transfer sovereignty on June 30. Not only will this relieve the administration of security burdens, it will also give George Bush a chance to reinforce his popularity among his electorate, by presenting the handover as a tangible achievement. America is hoping to rule Iraq behind the scenes, and the new Iraqi government will not ask the Americans to leave. Americans will stay in Iraq and American influence will continue."

4. "American Policy In Iraq ... A Blunder"

Dr. Shafiq Al-Ghabra wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'am (5/26): "The latest in a series of blunders committed by the Americans in Iraq was raiding Ahmad Al-Chalabi's headquarters. The reality on the ground is that no matter how able a foreign government is, Iraq cannot be easily governed. It is only the Iraqis who can secure stability in Iraq, and it is only the Iraqis who can stop this rampant violence. The priority for President Bush is to get out of Iraq with the lowest possible losses, and to include the United Nations in the process."

5. "American Strategy And The GMEI Hoax"

Fatima Al-Jasser wrote in independent Al-Watan (5/26): "Israel would not have been able to wantonly kill Palestinians and destroy their homes without blanket protection from America. Moreover, the subjugation and weakness of the Arab regimes has inadvertently supported these Israeli actions ... America, fortified with arrogance, has led every dirty war, and has been a sponsor of terrorism from the time it used the Taliban to hit back at the Russians. Even during the first Gulf War, America could have easily eliminated Saddam, but conveniently left him unscathed so that he would always pose a threat to his neighbors. How can events at Abu Gharib prison be a surprise, when America can close one eye to the blatant

Israeli violence against the Palestinians?"

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